Kodak Signet 80 Shutter Maintenance

by Michael Roth

This tutorial shows how I got a sluggish shutter to work again. After treating the shutter blades with lighter fluid without much success, I determined that I would need to lubricate the shutter. The next few pictures show how the camera can be disassembled to access the shutter.

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Step 1:

First remove these three screws and take the bottom cover off.

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Step 2:

The photo shows the shutter cocking lever in normal position after the shutter has been fired. When the shutter is tensioned, this lever is pushed all the way to the left. The problem with my camera was that the lever only moved half-way when the shutter was fired. Gently nudging it with the finger moved the lever all the way and opened the shutter blades.

A hint about the film counter disk: That disk is only loosely sitting on top of the tripod socket, held in place by the cover. It comes off relatively easily, and it took me about 10 minutes of fiddling to get it back in its proper place during reassembly. You may want to either fix it with tape or just reinstall the bottom cover. You don't need access to the bottom during the next steps, except that you may need to verify during reassembly that the shutter lever is back in it's place.

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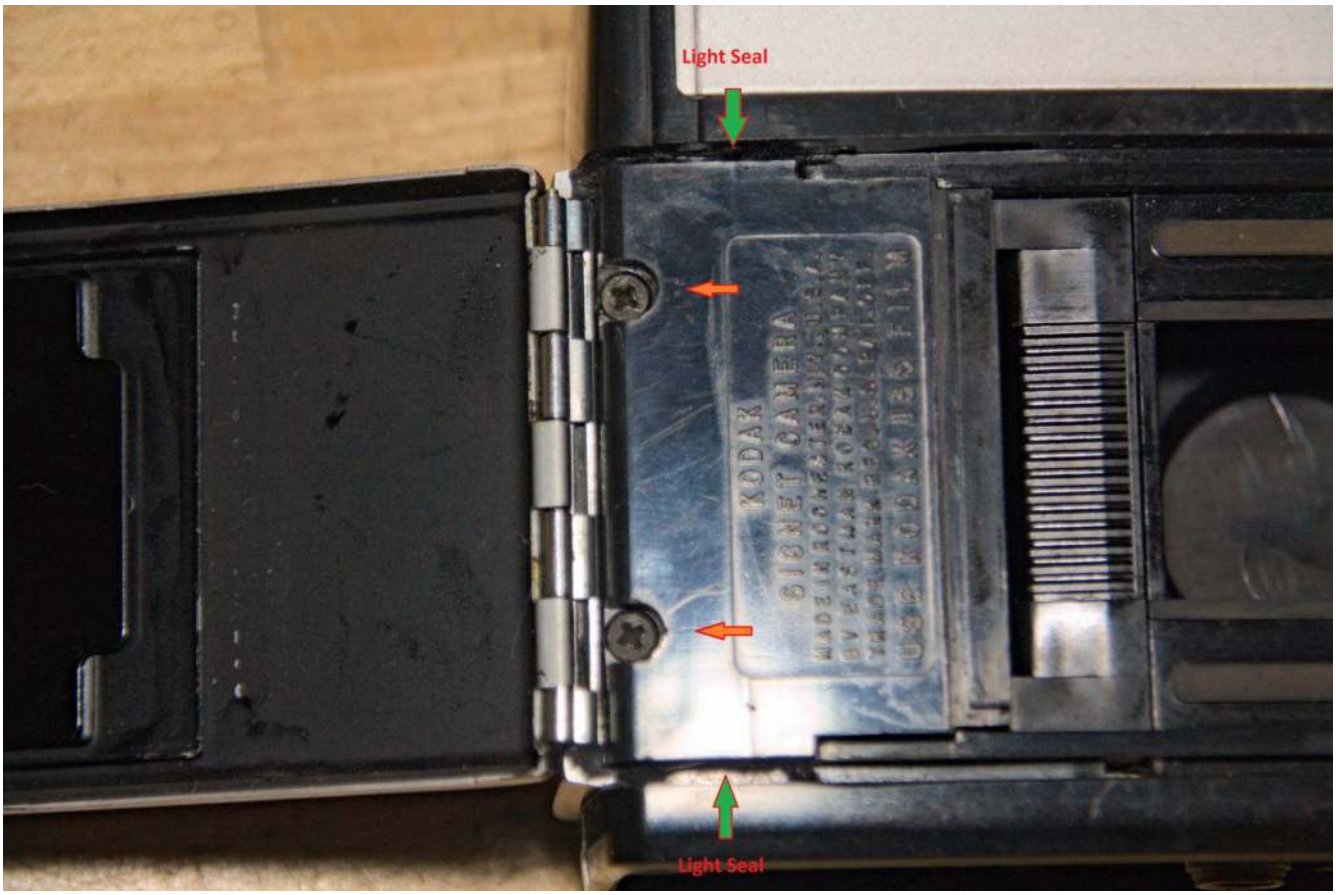
Step 3:

Remove the two screws and lift out the film compartment cover together with the entire hinged rear door. Note the light seals that may come off when you remove the compartment cover. Make sure you put the seals back in place during reassembly or replace them with modern foam seals.



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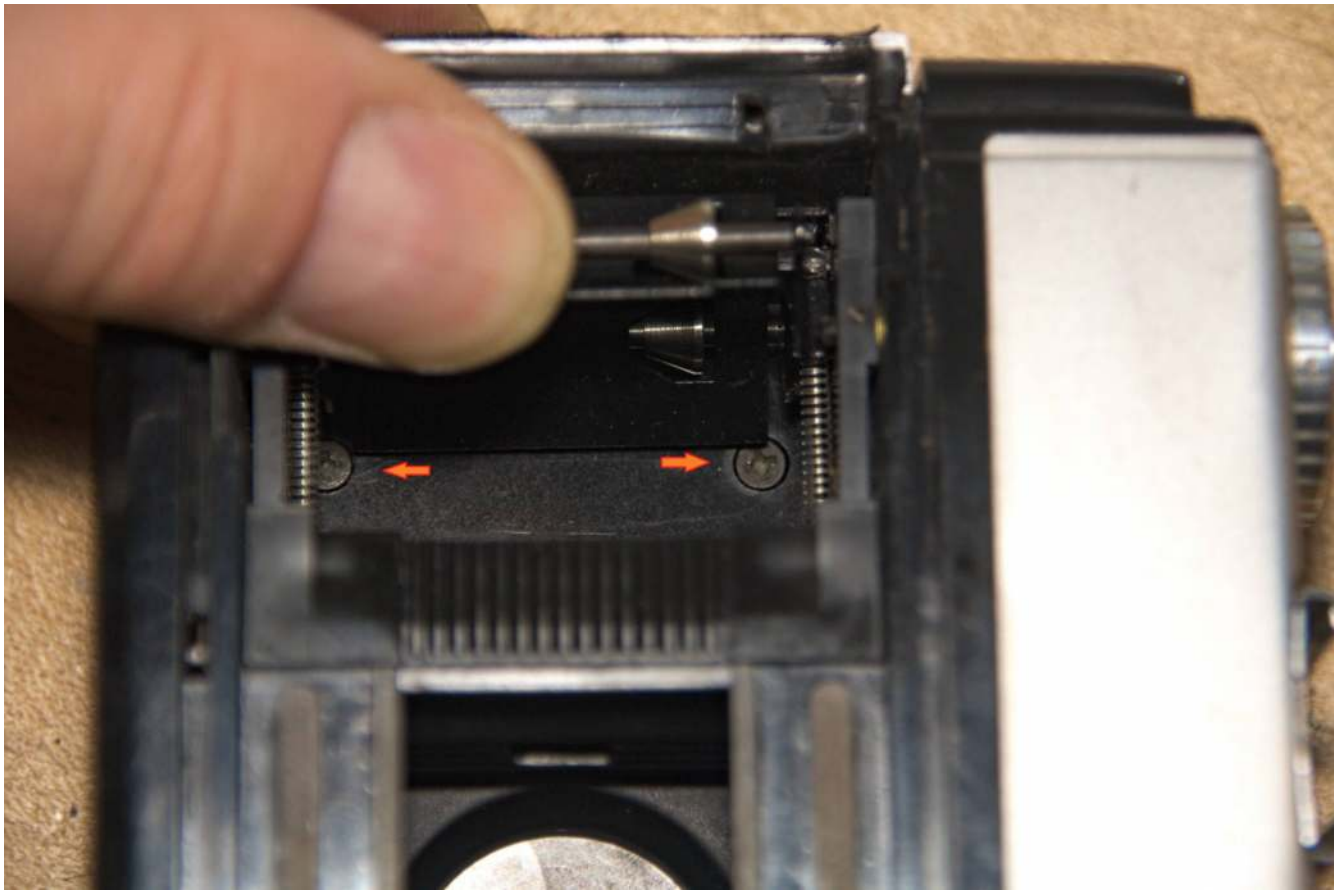
Step 4:

Push back the spring tensioned cover and remove the two screws underneath.



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Step 5:

On the front, push back the lens safety lock and remove the screw below.

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Step 6:

Remove the 3 screws for the cold shoe and remove the cold shoe plate. Note that the lower left screw (green arrow) is longer than the other two screws. Remember this during reassembly.
Then, on the outer ring of the meter dial, loosen, but do NOT remove, the three tiny screws until the ring comes off. NOTE THAT YOU WILL NEED A REALLY TINY MICRO SCREWDRIVER FOR THIS ! You will need to remove the outer ring, otherwise the silver top cover will not come off.

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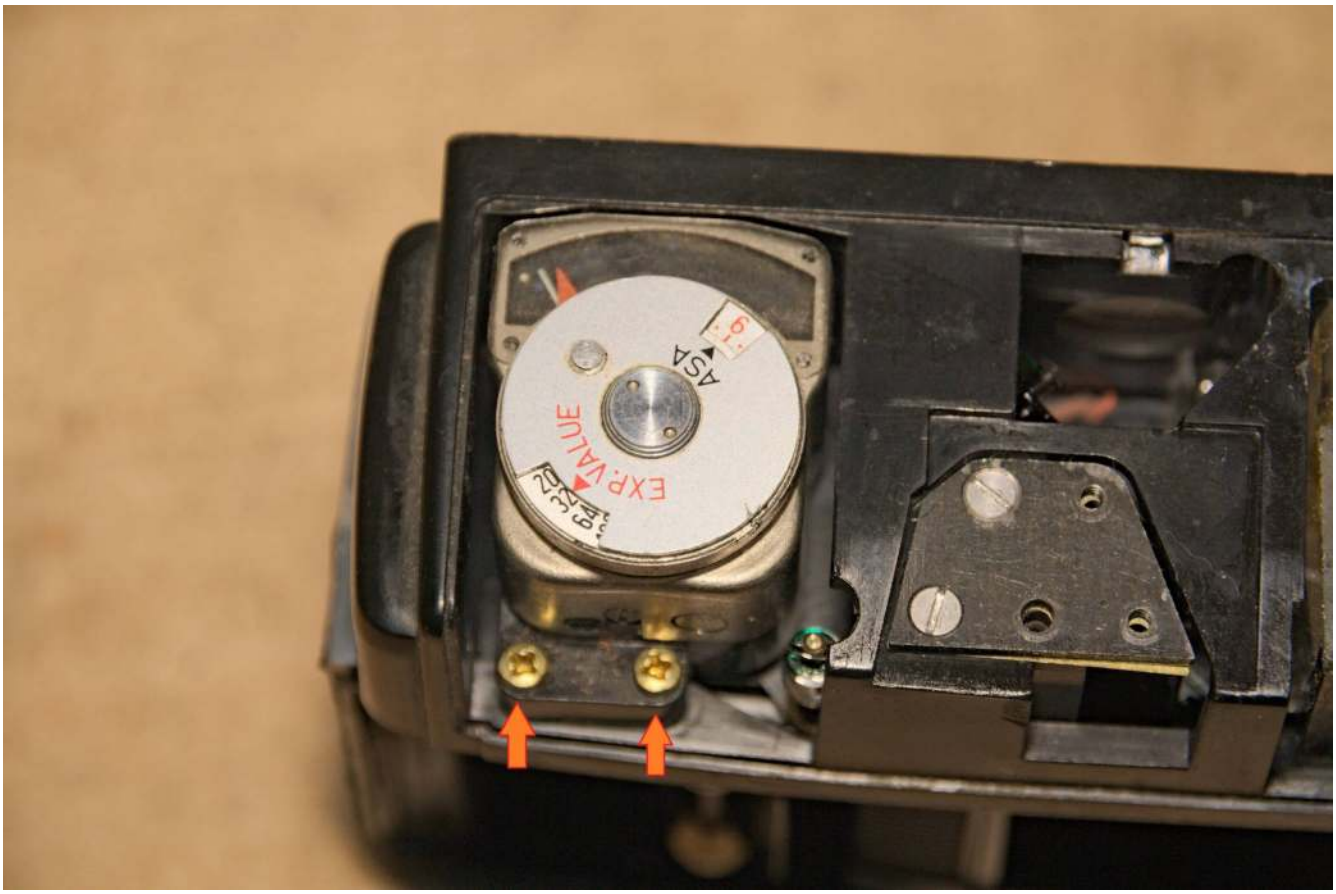
Step 7:

Remove the two brass screws on the left and lift out the exposure meter.



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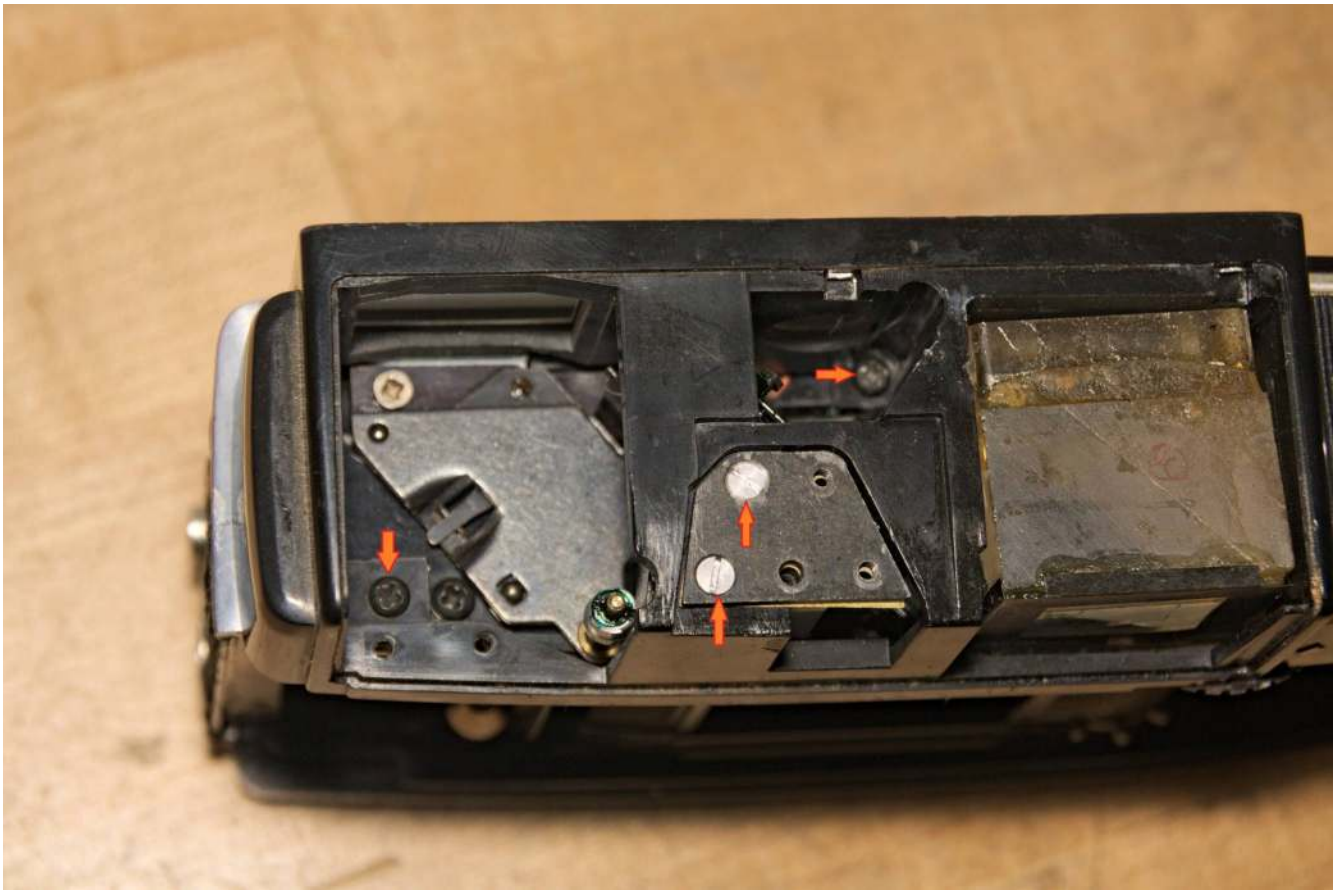
Step 8:

Remove the two silver screws and take out the two plates underneath. Then remove the two black screws as shown.



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Step 9:

The release button plate is attached to the frame with a screw that is hidden below the rubber covering. On the other side the plate is holding on to the plastic viewfinder frame with a simple catch. There are two ways to remove the plastic viewfinder frame:

a) One way is to remove the release button plate. To do this, carefully peel back the rubber covering as shown and remove the screw underneath. Note that the rubber covering is brittle and can break off easily. Gluing it back on later may leave a cosmetic imperfection.

b) The other way is to leave the release button plate in place. You will need to bend the plate and the plastic frame a little to clear the catch. Do this very slowly and carefully so nothing will break.

Once the plastic viewfinder frame comes off, the plastic viewfinder covers from the back (clear) and front (orange) will come off as well.

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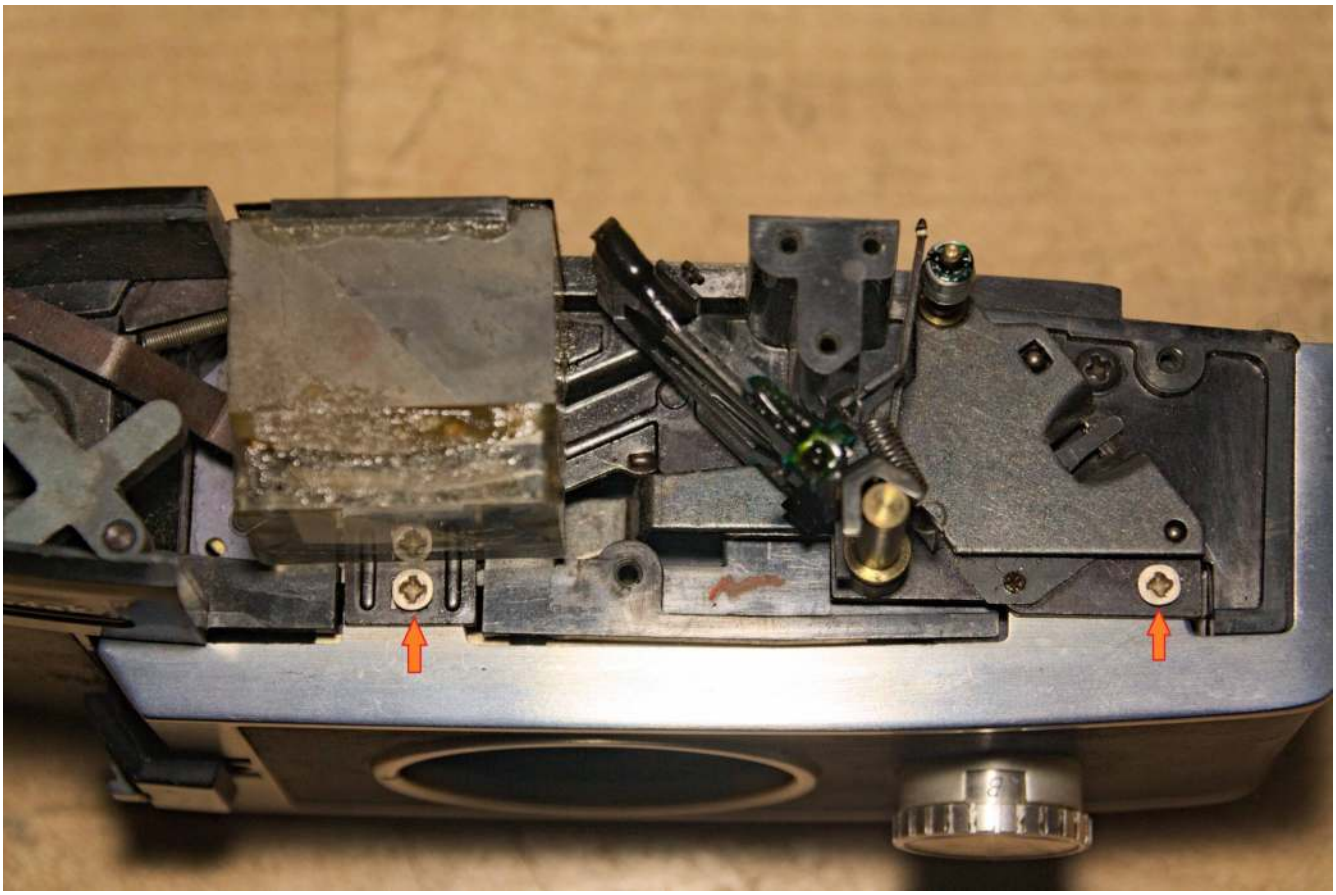
Step 10:

Remove these two remaining screws. Now you can lift out the entire metal front panel together with the shutter.



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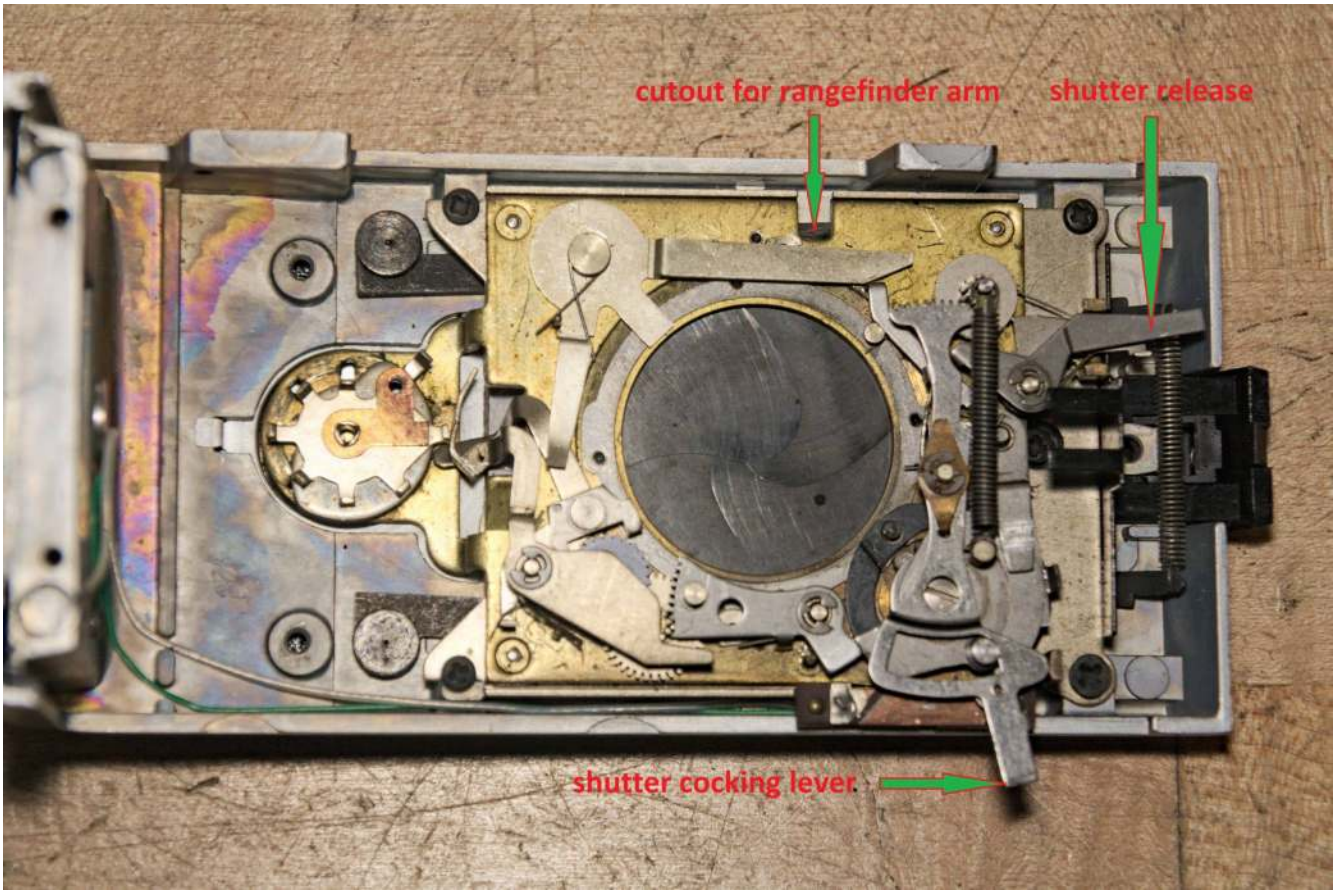
Step 11:

This is how the shutter mechanics look like. Now you can lubricate the shutter gears. I use a silicone based lubricant that I apply with a small brush. Make sure that the shutter blades remain free of any lubricant !

On the top you can see the cutout for the rangefinder arm that needs to fit in there when you reinstall the front panel. On the other side is a disk that should be rotated so that the rangefinder arm fits easier into the cutout (see next picture).



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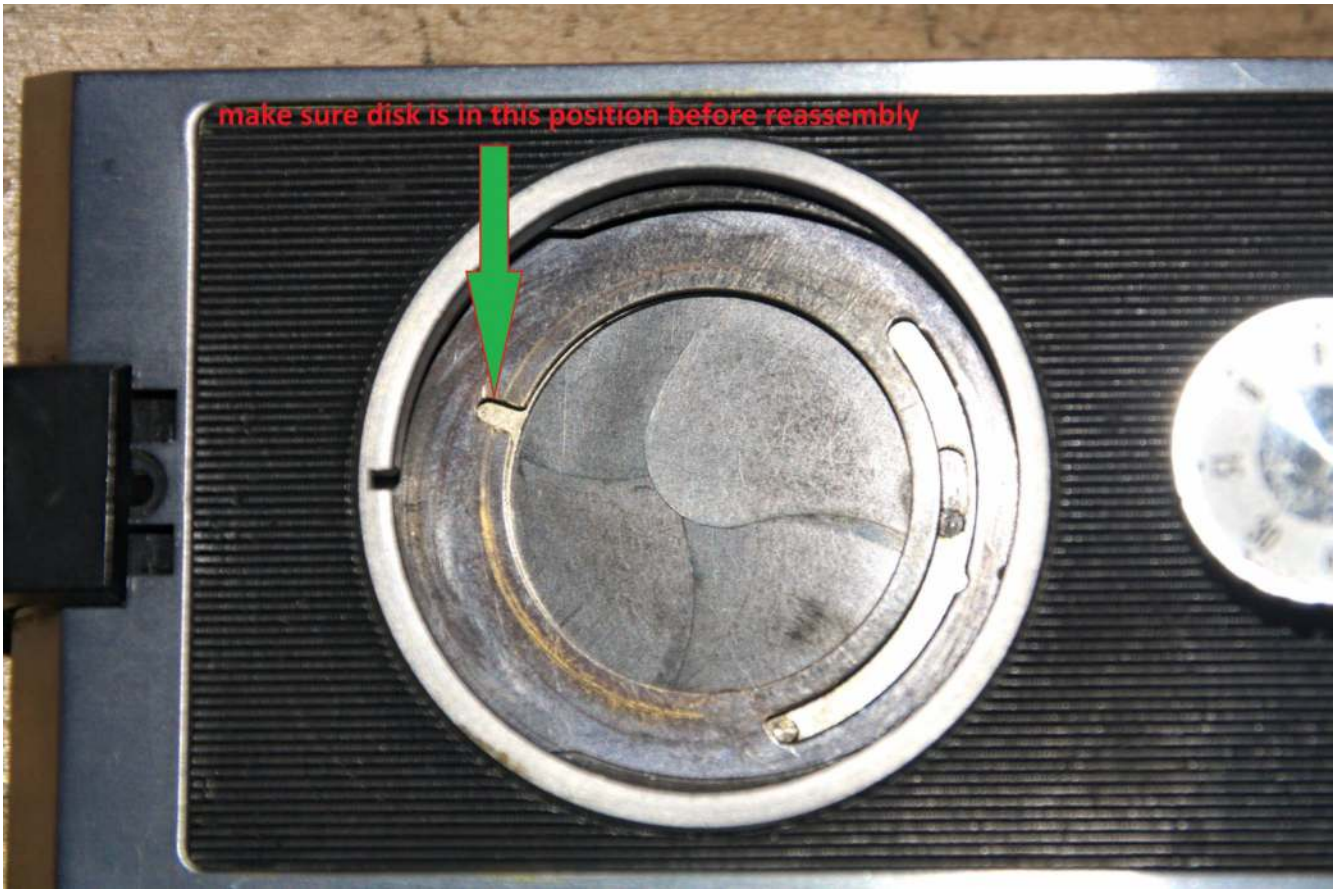
Step 12:

Before reinstalling the front panel, make sure that the disk above is rotated as shown. That way the rangefinder arm fits easiest into the cutout that is shown on the previous picture.

Now you can follow all the steps backwards to reassemble the camera.



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